

AF 3652

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Ashley Heiple

App. Ser. No. 10/053,327

Filed: January 17, 2003

For: **ADAPTER ASSEMBLY FOR AN IMPLEMENT COUPLING ASSEMBLY**

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: Examiner Donald J. Underwood  
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: Art Unit 3652  
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**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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APR 01 2004

**GROUP 3600**

Sir:

In response to the Patent Office Communication of March 2, 2004, Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 5, 6, 9 and 11, however, Applicant traverses the rejections of claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 10 and respectfully requests reconsideration of these claims for the reasons that follow.

Applicant notes that the claimed invention and the disclosure in Evans et al. (US Pat. 6,487,800) each relate to implement coupler assemblies. However, each have structures that are distinct from each other and therefore Evans et al. fails to teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, claim 1 of the claimed invention has the feature wherein the implement is provided with "a pair of mounting brackets each having a pair of opposed pin receiving recesses." Evans et al. discloses a first hook opening 20 opening downward and forward of the bucket and a second cradle opening 28 opening upward. See Evans et al. FIG. 1 and col. 3, lines 47-55. Each of these openings does not oppose each other but rather extend away from each other. There is also no teaching in Evans et al. to accommodate any opposed openings. Thus, Evans et al. not only fails to teach this feature, but provides no motivation to modify its disclosure to arrive at such a feature.

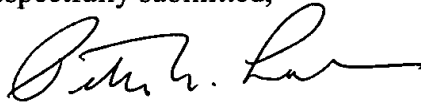
Furthermore, claim 1 also has the features including an adapter assembly comprising "a pair of bushings each mountable on one of said connecting pins between one of said dipper stick

and said operative connection of one of said connecting pins to said rod member, and one of said spacer links..having a configuration receivable within and conforming to one of said implement recesses.” Evans fails to disclose any adapter assembly, rather Evans only discloses a specific implement coupling assembly without any additional components to allow for varying combinations of implement assemblies and machines. Evans also fails to disclose bushings as outlined in the claimed invention. The features relied upon by the Office Action as teaching of bushings in the adapter assembly in Evans et al. are trunnions “attached outboard the side plates.” See Evans et al. col. 3, lines 47-48. Such trunnions are not bushings. As is well known in the art, bushings are linings to reduce friction or adapters used between pipes of differing diameters. Since the trunnions themselves meet neither definition, they cannot disclose or teach the bushings of the claimed invention.

Based on the dependency, Applicant also traverses the rejection of claims 2, 3, 7, 8 and 10 for the same reasons as above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the forgoing, Applicant submits that the rejection should be withdrawn and believes the application is in condition for allowance. An early action indication of such is earnestly solicited. However, if there are any issues that remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite a resolution to such issues. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees or credit any overpayment of fees in connection with this communication to Deposit Account 19-4375.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 22, 2004